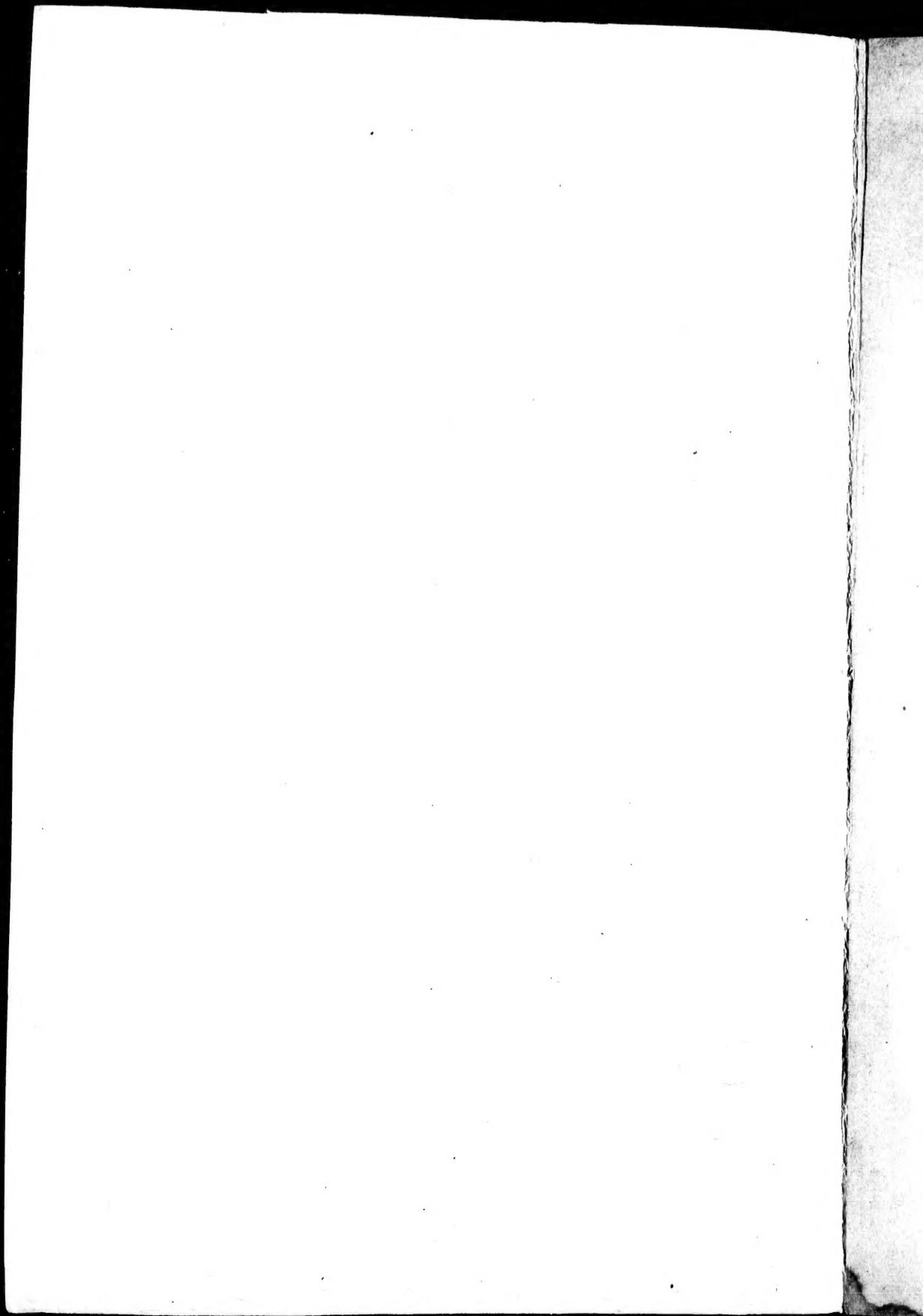




SUBSEQUENT
CORRESPONDENCE, &c.,

BETWEEN

MR. J. C. PENTLAND AND MR. YOUNG.



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BETWEEN MR. J. C. PENTLAND AND MR. YOUNG.

When the statement of facts made by me in relation to the difficulty between Messrs. Irvine and Pope, was ready for distribution, I deemed it my duty to send a copy of it at once to Mr. Pentland, in order that neither he nor his friend might be ignorant of the circumstance that publication had actually taken place.

The reasons which induced me to make that publication were succinctly stated in the introductory portion. My friend and myself had determined to make no mention whatever of any thing that had occurred between him and Mr. Irvine, or between Mr. Pentland and me, and we adhered to our resolution. To our surprise however, on the very night of the day on which the meeting took place, my friend heard that a statement had been made giving an erroneous and improper version of what had taken place. From the nature of the report, it was evident that notwithstanding its absurdity, it must have proceeded from some person who had been present and who was incompetent to appreciate the spirit which had dictated the observations made by my friend as we left the ground. Still we deemed it advisable to take no notice of the matter. A few days afterwards however having found that this incorrect report had been industriously circulated, I called upon Mr. Pentland to ascertain whether he or his friend had been instrumental in propagating the statement. From what then took place I felt that I was entitled to protest against the interpretation given by him to the words made use of on the occasion referred to, and in order that there might be no misunderstanding about the matter, a narrative of what occurred after our arrival on the ground was drawn up and submitted to Mr. Pentland, and I told him at the same time, that notwithstanding the report which had gone abroad, if he signed that narrative, no further notice would be taken of the matter. He requested that the paper might be left with him as he wanted to shew it to Mr. Irvine, I did so, and he returned it to me saying that he agreed with me as to many of the facts stated in it, but that it contained some in which he could not concur. I then told him the whole matter would be published. The statement published con-

tained the recital of what took place on the ground, copied from the narrative which I had submitted to Mr. Pentland. It must not therefore be supposed that he was aware of it for the first time only, after the receipt of the "Pamphlet." The latter was sent to Mr. Pentland on Wednesday last at 11 A. M. On the next day, after an interval of 25 hours, I received the following letter from that gentleman. It is in his handwriting.

"Mr. Pentland begs to acknowledge the receipt of the Pamphlet sent him yesterday, by Mr. Young, and entitled "Correspondence, &c., concerning a recent difficulty between Messrs. Irvine and Pope," which having perused, he feels himself called upon to say, that with the exception of the correspondence which has been correctly copied, the narration of matters of fact is not only highly coloured but is in many respects at variance with what actually took place on the occasions therein referred to.

Mr. Pentland cannot but remark that the motive which prompted a partial publication of conversations which took place between Mr. Young and himself and which do not in any way effect(*) the matter in dispute between Mr. Irvine and Mr. Pope, is in the highest degree improper and ungentlemanlike.

Mr. Pentland begs to add that it is his intention to give publicity to this communication.

Donnacona Street, }
21st December, 1854. }

JOHN YOUNG, Esq.,
Advocate."

Upon the receipt of this communication, I settled with Mr. Pentland in the only manner in which a settlement could be effected of the provocation given in it. Having done so, I now wish to reply to his letter.

The statement published by me was an accurate narrative of all that occurred. As it affects my friend, I cannot allow it to be met by a denegation distinguished only for its coarseness and peculiar orthography, without making some remarks. Mr. Pentland says, "the narration of matters of fact is not only highly coloured but is in many respects at variance with what actually took place on the

(*) The orthography is Mr. Pentland's.

"occasions therein referred to." It is easy for any person to make a general denial, when it is impossible for him to give in contradiction any statement of circumstances which give that denial any reliable character. Did or did not any occurrences take place of the nature of those alluded to by me? If yea, then why does not Mr. Pentland undertake to state truly and really all that actually did pass under his observation? If none took place, why does he not at once say so? It is he only who fears the truth, who contents himself by giving a rude denial; it is he only who is confident of the veracity of his statement, who dares to enter into details. Mr. Pentland must not suppose that the truth is to be stifled by a letter of the character just mentioned, and that under cover of the noise which it was intended to create, he can crawl away from an investigation of the truth.

Mr. Pentland in speaking of his conversations, remarks that the publication was partial. If this was the case, why does *he* not supply the omissions? why does *he* not state what did take place? Once again, I must say, that it is evident that it was felt to be impossible for him to do so, because had a different version been given, the person who gave it would have been indebted to his imagination.

Mr. Pentland has not attempted to deny the truth of the correspondence. An attempt to have done this, would have been palpably abortive, because it was known that the letters were still in existence. These letters refer to the conversations which took place between Mr. Pentland and me up to the time that our correspondence terminated, and they embody what was said. In Mr. Pentland's answers, does he deny my statements? He does not.—That matter is therefore set at rest. The only other conversations which took place are in respect of certain facts. They are mentioned at page 7 of my statement, and comprise what passed up to that portion of the narrative which alludes to what took place on the ground. These facts simply are 1°. That after the correspondence terminated, Mr. Pentland and I settled that the meeting between our principals should take place at 11 instead of half past 7. Mr. Pentland stating that his principal could not be ready at half past 7, as he had yet to procure his pistols. 2°. On the morning of the meeting, and *one hour and a half* before it was to take place, Mr. Pentland informed me that he had been unable to procure pistols for Mr. Irvine. 3°. Thereupon I offered him one of Mr. Pope's pistols. 4°. Mr. Pentland accepted that offer. Now will Mr. Pentland deny any one of these facts? And first, Is it not true that the

meeting was first arranged for half past 7, and then postponed till 11, for the reason alleged? If not, why was the hour changed? 2°. On the morning of the meeting at half past 9, did not Mr. Pentland inform me that he had been unable to procure pistols for his friend? If not, what did he say about them? 3°. Is it not true that upon his saying so, I offered him one of Mr. Pope's pistols? 4°. Is it not true that Mr. Pentland accepted that offer? and lastly, Is it not true that the duel was fought by pistols produced by Mr. Pope, the challenged party, because the challenger had not provided himself with any? If not, will Mr. Pentland say, where *he* got the pistol that was discharged by Mr. Irvine? I only ask whether the portions of my narrative are not a natural sequence of those facts which even Mr. Pentland cannot contradict. However, if at any future period, that gentleman's memory will so far aid him as to enable him to give his recollections of what passed, I shall again recur to the subject if it be necessary.

In the meantime let Mr. Pentland clearly understand that the attempt to fly from the discussion of facts, by sending so original a communication to me, with the intention of provoking another correspondence under cover of which it was hoped the real facts of the first might be hidden, has been a miserable failure.

JOHN YOUNG,

Quebec, 23rd Dec. 1854.

I saw Mr. Young's statement before it was published. I have seen Mr. Pentland's reply. With reference to what took place whenever I was present, I state that Mr. Young's narrative contains an accurate account of everything that occurred. It does not omit a word that was said. It does not give one that was not uttered. I endorse the truth of every statement contained in it, and distinctly deny that the narration is in any way colored, or that it is in any respect at variance with what actually took place. The denial being general, I say no more. The facts concern in the first instance, Mr. Irvine and myself. I think it right that further discussion should be confined to us alone. If then Mr. Irvine holds that Mr. Young's statement is not correct, let him state in what respects it is so, and I shall answer him. I am desirous now as I was at the commencement of the difficulty, that there should be no misconception on the subject.

THOS. POPE.

Quebec 23rd Dec. 1854.

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